

Whereas Rodeo Fire burned at a rate of 2,000 acres per hour for the first 30 hours with flame lengths up to 1,000 feet and ground temperatures above 2,000 degrees;

Whereas fire-fighting aviation support was grounded during the Rodeo Fire due to high, erratic winds, requiring a total airspace closure for the third time in the history of wildland firefighting in the United States;

Whereas, on June 20, 2002, the human-caused Chediski Fire was reported near Chediski Peak in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests about 20 miles northwest of the Rodeo Fire;

Whereas, on June 20, 2002, Arizona Governor Jane Dee Hull declared a state of emergency and authorized mobilization of the Arizona National Guard to support firefighters;

Whereas, on June 23, 2002, the 2 fires burned together and were redesignated as the Rodeo-Chediski Fire;

Whereas, on June 25, 2002, President George W. Bush arrived at Springerville Municipal Airport, Springerville, Arizona, and signed a declaration that designated the Rodeo-Chediski Fire a national disaster;

Whereas more than 4,500 firefighters and support personnel, 30 helicopters, 251 engines, 92 water tankers, and 90 bulldozers were assigned to the Rodeo-Chediski Fire; and

Whereas the Rodeo-Chediski Fire burned for 5 weeks until the fire was declared contained on July 7, 2002: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Rodeo-Chediski Fire;

(2) commends the courage of local residents affected by the Rodeo-Chediski Fire;

(3) extends condolences to individuals who lost homes, businesses, and property; and

(4) honors the life-saving bravery and sacrifices of the firefighters and first responders assigned to the Rodeo-Chediski Fire.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5065. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

SA 5066. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5067. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5068. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5069. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5070. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5071. Mr. MARSHALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5072. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5073. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5074. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5075. Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5065. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. . . . EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 5066. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

Subtitle C—Other Health Care Matters

SEC. 121. INCREASED PER DIEM RATES FOR STATE HOMES OUTSIDE THE CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1741(a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “paragraph (3) and” before “section 1745 of this title”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) The Secretary shall pay to a State a per diem rate that is more than the rate specified under paragraph (1) or determined under paragraph (2) in the case of a State located outside the contiguous United States based on the reevaluation of such rates conducted under section 121(b) of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022.”.

(b) REEVALUATION OF PER DIEM RATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report reevaluating the per diem rates paid under section 1741(a) of title 38, United States Code, to States located outside the contiguous United States.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Subcommittee on Military Construc-

tion, Veterans’ Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans’ Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SA 5067. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 708. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION TREATMENT PROGRAM FACILITY IN ALASKA.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall construct a new Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program facility in Alaska.

SA 5068. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 708. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COMMUNITY LIVING CENTER IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall construct a new community living center in the vicinity of the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Anchorage, Alaska.

SA 5069. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 809. APPRAISALS FOR HOUSING LOANS GUARANTEED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) COMPLETION OF APPRAISALS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that any appraisal that is being conducted for purposes of a housing loan guaranteed under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, and is outstanding as of the date of the enactment of this Act is completed not later than December 31, 2022.

(b) APPRAISAL POLICIES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall maintain policies that ensure that an appraisal conducted for purposes of a housing loan guaranteed under chapter 37 of such title is completed not later than 45 days after the date on which the appraisal is ordered.

SA 5070. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ MAKING ADDITIONAL LAND AVAILABLE FOR SELECTION UNDER THE ALASKA NATIVE VIETNAM ERA VETERANS LAND ALLOTMENT PROGRAM.

All Federal land identified as suitable for allotment selection in the report under subsection (c)(1) of section 1119 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (43 U.S.C. 1629g-1), and published by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the report entitled "Identification of National Wildlife Refuge System Lands in Alaska That Should Be Made Available for Allotment Selection by Eligible Alaska Native Vietnam Era Veterans" (November 2020), shall be made immediately available for selection in accordance with that section.

SA 5071. Mr. MARSHALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ LIMITS ON USE OF OFFICIAL TIME BY EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 7131 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "Any employee" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (e), any employee";

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting "or (e)" after "subsection (a)";

(3) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "provided in the preceding subsections of this section" and inserting "provided otherwise under this section"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(e) An employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs representing a labor organization (including an exclusive representative) may not be authorized official time to participate in—

"(1) any negotiations with respect to a collective bargaining agreement under this chapter, including any impasse proceeding; or

"(2) an arbitration proceeding in which the Department and the labor organization are opposing parties."

SA 5072. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 408. CONDITIONAL EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, no other provision of this title shall take effect until the date on which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs certifies to Congress that there will not be any negative operational impact on existing disability claims processing and health care delivery for veterans.

SA 5073. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other pur-

poses; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

Subtitle C—Other Health Care Matters

SEC. 121. SYSTEM FOR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 7309A(c) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) Beginning not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Director shall establish an information technology system that will allow a veteran (or the designated representative of a veteran) to electronically—

"(A) file a complaint that will be received by the appropriate patient advocate; and

"(B) at any time view the status of the complaint, including interim and final actions that have been taken to address the complaint."

SA 5074. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 proposed by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

Subtitle C—Expansion of Dental Care for Veterans

SEC. 121. REQUIREMENT THAT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FURNISH DENTAL CARE IN THE SAME MANNER AS ANY OTHER MEDICAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 is amended—

(1) in section 1701(6)(B), by striking "as described in sections 1710 and 1712 of this title";

(2) in section 1710(c), by striking the second sentence; and

(3) in section 1712—

(A) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

(B) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively; and

(C) in subsection (a), as redesignated by subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking "Dental appliances" and inserting "The Secretary may furnish dentures, dental appliances"; and

(ii) by striking "to be furnished by the Secretary under this section may be procured by the Secretary" and inserting "under this section and may procure such appliances".

(b) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) PROTECTION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1525(a) is amended by striking "medicines under section 1712(d)" and inserting "medicines under section 1712(b)".

(B) DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN.—Section 1712C(h) is amended—

(i) by striking "section 1712 of this title" and inserting "this chapter"; and

(ii) by striking "such section 1712" and inserting "this chapter".

(2) HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading for section 1712 is amended to read as follows:

"§ 1712. Appliances; drugs and medicines for certain disabled veterans; vaccines".

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter II of chapter 17 is amended by striking the item relating to section 1712 and inserting the following new item:

"1712. Appliances; drugs and medicines for certain disabled veterans; vaccines."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 122. EXPANSION OF FURNISHING BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF DENTAL CARE TO ALL ENROLLED VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall furnish dental care to all veterans enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, pursuant to the phased approach required under this section.

(b) PHASE ONE REQUIRED.—

(1) COMMENCEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall furnish dental care to all covered veterans who are not eligible for dental services and treatment and related dental appliances under the laws administered by the Secretary as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) PHASE ONE.—In this section, the furnishing of dental care under subparagraph (A) shall be referred to as "phase one".

(2) DURATION OF PHASE ONE.—Phase one shall be carried out during the two-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of phase one.

(3) LOCATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out phase one at the following locations:

(i) Each medical center of the Department with an established dental clinic.

(ii) Not fewer than four military medical treatment facilities of the Department of Defense with the capacity to furnish dental care, which shall be selected in consultation with the Secretary of Defense.

(iii) Not fewer than four community-based outpatient clinics with space available for the furnishing of dental care under phase one.

(iv) Not fewer than four Federally Qualified Health Centers.

(v) Not fewer than four facilities of the Indian Health Service with established dental clinics, which shall be selected in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting locations for phase one, the Secretary shall consider the feasibility and advisability of selecting locations in each of the following:

(i) Rural areas.

(ii) Areas that are not in close proximity to an active duty military installation.

(iii) Areas representing different geographic locations, such as census tracts established by the Bureau of the Census.

(C) MOBILE DENTAL CLINICS.—In carrying out phase one, the Secretary shall test the efficacy of mobile dental clinics to service rural areas that do not have a population base to warrant a full-time clinic but where there are covered veterans in need of dental care.

(D) HOME BASED DENTAL CARE.—In carrying out phase one, the Secretary shall test the efficacy of portable dental care units to service rural veteran in their homes, as the Secretary considers medically appropriate.

(4) SCOPE OF SERVICES.—The dental care furnished to covered veterans under phase one shall be consistent with the dental services and treatment furnished by the Secretary to veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 100 percent disabling under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(5) USE OF THERAPISTS AND TELE-DENTISTRY.—In carrying out phase one, the Secretary shall test the efficacy of the use of